

Your faith

- ✓ You will be able to practice your faith in prison.
- ✓ You can tell prison staff what your faith is when you first get to prison. They will then help you get what you need to practice your faith.
- ✓ The prison must make sure there is a place you can go to practice your faith. For example, to say prayers or to go to religious meetings.
- ✓ Every prison will have a team of people to help you practice your faith. This is called a **chaplaincy team**.
- ✓ You can ask to see a chaplain even if you have no religious faith. Chaplains are there to listen to **any** prisoner who wants someone to talk to. For example, if they are feeling upset or worried.
- ✓ The prison will take notice of dates and times for prayer and religious services holidays and festivals.
- ✓ You can always go to the main service for your faith. For example, you can still go if you are on segregation, on the escape list or in hospital. Tell a chaplain before the service if you still want to go to the service.
- ✓ Speak to one of the chaplains or to someone called a **diversity officer** if your religious needs are not being met in prison.
- ✓ More information in **Prison Service Order 4550**. There is a copy in the library.

People to help you practice your faith

- The chaplaincy team is a team of people from different faiths who are there to help you practice your faith.
- The team is different in every prison but usually there will be chaplains who are from these religions and faiths
 - Church of England
 - Roman Catholic, Methodist and Free Churches
 - Muslim
 - Buddhist
 - Jewish
 - Hindu
 - Sikh

People from other religions or faiths can also come to the prison if needed.

Rastafarianism is not recognised as a religion in prisons. But, the chaplaincy team will try to help you if you are a Rastafarian. You will be able to eat vegetarian or vegan food and have other things you need, like books.

Making sure prison staff know about your faith

- You must tell prison staff when you first get to prison if you want to practice a faith. This is so prison staff can make sure you have what you need to practice your faith.
- When you first get to prison you will be asked to say what your faith is. You can tell prison staff what your faith is, or you can say that you do not have one.
- This is called **registering** your faith.

More about your faith

- If you want to take part in religious services or activities after that, you will go to the services for the faith you registered as.
- A chaplain will come to see you soon after you first arrive in prison to make sure the correct faith has been registered for you and to find out if you have any religious needs.

If you want to change your faith

- You can change the faith you have been registered as to another faith.
- You will have to fill in a form and sign it to say you want to change to another faith.
- The chaplaincy team will help you find the right chaplain for your new faith.

If you want to see a chaplain from another faith without changing your faith

You can do this as long as

- the governor and the chaplains are happy that you really do want to find out more about, or practice, another faith
- the governor and the chaplains think that you are doing this for a good reason and not to cause any problems.

Going to religious services or to other faith activities

- The prison must allow at least 1 hour each week for religious services.
- The chaplaincy team will tell you the dates and times of religious services, meetings or activities.
- You can go to the main service of the faith you have registered as.
- You can go to other groups or activities for your faith as long as there are enough spaces left.
- You can go to a religious service even if you have told the prison you have no faith.
- You may be able to go to meetings of a different faith. Speak to your chaplain about this first.
- Sometimes other things you do in prison, like daily exercise or having visits, happen at the same time as important things to do with your faith. Prison staff may be able to help you get to your religious event if this happens.

What the Chaplain can do for you

- Chaplains may be able to help you keep in touch with the world outside prison. For example, they may be able to arrange for a religious person from your home church, mosque, temple or community to visit you in prison.
- They may also be able to help you keep contact with your family. They may work with your family or other people like the probation service to do this.
- If you are from another country (a foreign national prisoner) the chaplain may be able to help you keep in touch with your family in that country.

Other help. For example, with things like getting parole

- You can ask your chaplain to say something or write something about you for any reports that are made about you while you are in prison.
- Prison staff will write reports about you with information in them about things like your behaviour, and things you have done like work or education. These reports will be used to make decisions about you. For example, people from the Parole Board will look at the reports to decide if you can get parole or not.